



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

DEQ PROGRAM RECEIVES HIGHEST RATING FROM THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

(Baton Rouge) - - After a thorough audit, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Management Review Board gave DEQ the highest rating the commission can assign to an "agreement state."

Louisiana is considered an agreement state because, through a contract with NRC, it has the authority to regulate radioactive material within the state. NRC inspects the Louisiana program every four years. During October, a five-person team consisting of radiation experts from NRC headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRC Region IV in Arlington, Texas, and another agreement state conducted a detailed audit of all aspects of Louisiana's radiation protection program. Some of the performance indicators studied were technical staffing and training, status of materials inspection program and technical quality of inspections. DEQ administers 540 radioactive material licenses.

"The dedication to excellence exhibited by this program is indicative of the effort put forth by DEQ to protect the environment and keep it safe for Louisiana's citizens," said DEQ Secretary Hall Bohlinger. "I commend the staff who have worked so diligently to secure this rating."

The review was conducted in accordance with the "Implementation of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program" (IMPEP) published in the Federal Register on Oct. 16, 1997, and the Nov. 5, 1999, NRC Management Directive 5.6, "Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program." As a result of these findings, the next review has been scheduled for the year 2008.